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Predictions of Short-Term Rates and the Expectations Hypothesis

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True Blue Toastmasters Club

AH-COUNTER / GRAMMARIAN

Helping members off of their crutches

The purpose of the **Ah-Counter/Grammarian** is to note any word or sound used as a filler or crutch by anyone who speaks during the meeting. Words may be inappropriate interjections, such as *and*, *well*, *but*, *so*, *like* and *you know*. Sounds may be *ah*, *um*, *uh*, or *er*. You should also note when a speaker repeats a word or phrase such as “I, I” or “This means, this means.” These words and sounds can be very distracting to listeners. The Ah-Counter role is an excellent opportunity to practice your listening skills, and by doing so, we notice how often and how easy it is to make these mistakes ourselves.

Preparation before the meeting

- Confirm that you will be the Ah-Counter/Grammarian that week with the person who is **Toastmaster** for that week.
- To help build our vocabulary, please select a **Word of the Day** that is related to the THEME, and can be easily used by all during the meeting. An added bonus is to choose a word that is different, new, or unusual so that members can increase their vocabulary knowledge.
- Notify the **Toastmaster** and the **Vice President of Education (VPE)**:
 - The Word of the Day
 - The definition of the word
 - Prepare an example sentence showing how the word is used.
 - Note: the Vice President of Education will print the word, definition, and (if there's enough space) the example sentence on the meeting agenda so *do not change the word last minute*.
- You can also print out the word in BIG letters to place in front of the lectern, or you can write it on the whiteboard at the meeting.
- Print out this guideline so that you can use the Ah-Counter worksheet during the meeting. If you cannot print a copy, please inform the VPE who will provide one for you.
- Review the *Competent Leadership* (CL) manual for the role of Ah-Counter and follow instructions on how to receive credit. The purpose of the CL manual is to help you build leadership skills; if all 10 leadership projects are completed, Toastmasters International will formally recognize it by awarding you the designation of CL.

During the meeting

1. Bring your *Competent Leadership* (CL) manual to the meeting and have the VPE sign his/her initials on your Project Completion Record page.
2. Arrive 5 minutes early to place your WORD in front of the lectern or write it clearly on the white board.
3. The Sergeant-At-Arms or the Vice President of Education will provide you with a worksheet to help keep a tally during the meeting if you did not print your own copy.

4. When called on by the Toastmaster at the beginning of the meeting – PLEASE STAND UP and explain your role as Ah-Counter and Grammarian for the meeting.

For example, you can say:

“Thank you Toastmaster, good afternoon fellow Toastmasters, and most welcomed guests. My name is _____ and I will be your Ah-Counter and Grammarian for today. My role is to keep count of the number of times you use filler words, such as ‘um, uh, but, so, like, or any repeated word’ because this can be distracting to the audience. At the end of the meeting, I will announce the total number of infractions for each person who spoke. Each infraction costs 10 cents up to \$1.00 maximum. However, if you use the word of the day, I will take off an infraction each time you use it. The word of the day is _____. It means _____. To use it in a sentence, it would be _____. So remember to use the word _____ in today’s meeting. Guests do not have to pay this fee, only members do. Mr./Madame Toastmaster.”

As a challenge, try to explain your role by not reading these notes so that you can better engage with the audience. However, if you need to refer to these notes, please do so.

5. Throughout the meeting, listen carefully to everyone who speaks for filler/crutch sounds, repeated words, and vocalized pauses. Keep track by using the worksheet.
 - a. “Without any further ado,” is considered a filler phrase.
 - b. “Mary needs no introduction,” then don’t introduce her – this phrase is redundant.
6. At the end of the meeting, the Toastmaster will call on you for a concluding report.
 - a. PLEASE STAND UP – Report on how each speaker did, especially if he/she used the Word of the Day. Please remember that the maximum for members to pay is \$1.00, even if someone committed 11+ infractions. **Please make sure that you pass around the coin jar, no need to be reserved about it!**

After the meeting

- Return the coin jar to the Sergeant-At-Arms.
- Reflect on how you did as Ah-Counter/Grammarian and implement any changes or improvements the next time you are Ah-Counter/Grammarian.

More Ah-Counter information can be found by clicking [here](#).

More Grammarian information can be found by clicking [here](#).

Take on this role and the new habits formed in which you catch the number of filler or crutch words and sounds will vastly improve your skills as a public speaker.

AH-COUNTER WORKSHEET

Role/Name	Umm	Uh / Ah	So	Like	And	You Know	Repeated words and other mistakes	Word of the day: take off infraction each time	TOTAL NUMBER
Sergeant-At-Arms									
President									
Toastmaster									
Ah-Counter									
Timer									
General Evaluator									
Educational Tidbit									
Speaker 1									
Speaker 2									
Evaluator 1									
Evaluator 2									
Table Topics Master									
Table Topics Speakers									